

FINANCIAL UPDATE

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2011 PROPERTY TAX LEVY

In an effort to maintain an affordable price for City services, the City Council adopted a property tax levy for 2011 of \$44,552,753, a decrease of 0.12 percent from 2010. Other communities in Hennepin County either had no increase or up to an 8 percent increase in their levies.

Based on this tax levy, the City's portion of 2011 total residential property taxes is approximately 29 percent.

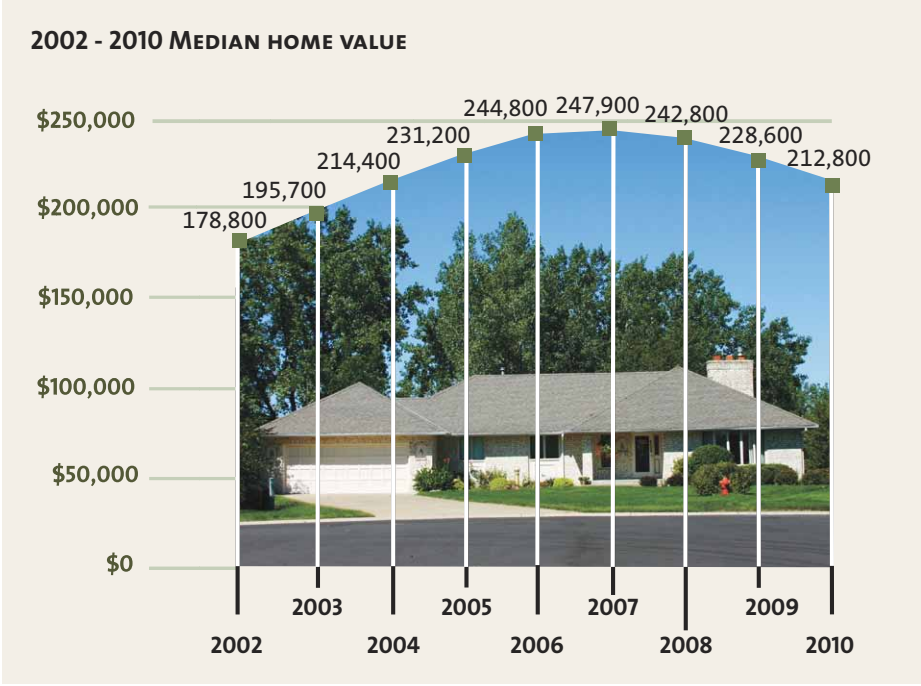
The City's objective is to maintain the monthly cost of City services for the owner of a median value home, which for 2011 is \$212, 800, at the same level as 2010 – \$67.82.

Some homeowners saw the value of their properties decrease and their portions of local taxes increase. This is because there is not a direct correlation between property values and property taxes as there is between sales and

income taxes. Governments in Minnesota levy a total property tax dollar amount; they do not set the tax rate, as found in some states. In the property tax system, market value is used to create a proportionate share of the tax levy. In other words, a person's tax bill is a factor of how all other properties in the city change in value. The average residential property decreased in value for taxes payable in 2011. The tax for a median value home with the approved levy should stay flat compared to the 2010 tax. If your property maintained its value better than the average property, your share of the tax levy most likely showed an increase.

Home sales in 2009 reflect the housing downturn and are the basis for the 2010 assessment for taxes payable in 2011. Home sales in 2010 will be the basis for 2012 taxes. Total market value for all Bloomington properties was at \$11.8 billion for taxes payable in 2009, dropped to \$11.2 billion for 2010 and to \$10.3 billion for 2011.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES

With so many different kinds of intersections, sometimes it is difficult to remember who has the right-of-way. Most drivers know the rules of a stop-controlled intersection, but uncontrolled, circular and t-intersections can be confusing.

Here is a review of the rules to help avoid those baffling situations:

Four-way uncontrolled

- Vehicles in the intersection and entering ahead of you have the right-of-way.
- If you arrive at the same time, the car to the right has the right-of-way.

T-intersection

- Vehicles on the through road have the right-of-way.

Circular intersection

- Vehicles already in the circle have the right-of-way; incoming cars must yield.

For more information, call Civil Engineer Amy Marohn at 952-563-4532.

PENN-AMERICAN DISTRICT

PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT MOVE FORWARD

After years of planning, the first phase of development is expected to begin at the intersection of Penn Avenue and American Boulevard near Southtown Center.

This prime location will soon be home to a combination of retail, office and residential spaces along tree-shaded streets, attractive for outdoor dining and strolling. This is the vision for the Penn-American District and it's beginning to take shape. Phase I of the project includes three residential buildings with a mix of townhomes, apartments and retail space at the street level.

United Properties and Stuart Development Corporation of Bloomington have been working with the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority to finalize plans for the district. The City Council approved the final development plan in November. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring. The plan includes rebuilding the I-494/I-35W interchange and creating a bus rapid transit station on I-35W that will increase transit options and draw businesses and residents to this upcoming neighborhood hub.

For more information, contact HRA Administrator Regina Harris at 952-201-3122 or rharris@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PENN AMERICAN.

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?

HIGHWAY 169 GETS A MAKEOVER

RECONFIGURE OF HWY. 169/I-494 INTERCHANGE BEGINS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) recently approved a design-build plan to relieve traffic congestion at the Hwy. 169 and I-494 interchange.

The main cause of the congestion has been attributed to three stoplights along the highway. In 1997, the stretch of Hwy. 169 that runs through Bloomington and Eden Prairie was redesigned to host four lanes of traffic and use stoplights instead of overpasses. In 2005 and 2006, overpasses were constructed at the Pioneer Trail and Bloomington Ferry Road/Anderson Lakes Parkway crossings. Two of the original stoplights have already been replaced. The stoplights that remain are located at Highwood Drive and on either side of the I-494 bridge.

MnDOT recently awarded a contract to a project team lead by C.S. McCrossan and Edward Kraemer and Sons to reconfigure the Hwy. 169 and I-494 crossing. The contractors will remove the stoplights and rebuild the interchange replacing the stoplights with six freeway-to-freeway ramps.

MnDOT, the cities of Bloomington, Edina and Eden Prairie, and the Federal Highway Administration are collaborating on the plan, which has cut project costs by an estimated \$30 million. Ramps will not initially be built between east I-494 and north Hwy. 169 or between south Hwy. 169 and west I-494. These are the least-traveled routes as drivers often use nearby Hwy. 212.

Additionally, six roundabouts will serve as access points to the freeway from surrounding streets and frontage roads. The roundabouts will be spaced evenly around the highway and are intended to reduce the traffic caused by four-way stops.

The major portion of the interchange construction will begin in the spring. Local streets will be accessible throughout construction. The project is required to be completed by August 2013, but the project team has committed to the bulk of the construction being completed by November 2012.

For more information, contact Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: 169 AND 494 INTERCHANGE.



ANIMAL CONTROL CORNER

KEEP PET INFORMATION CURRENT

Did you know that one in three pets goes missing during its lifetime? Without proper ID, 90 percent never return home. Although microchips offer the best protection for dogs and cats with a permanent ID that can never be removed, microchips are useless if the identifying information is not current.

If you own a pet with a microchip and have recently changed phone numbers or moved, it's a good idea to call the microchip company and update your pet's information.

When an animal is brought to Bloomington Animal Control without identifying tags, a microchip is often the only tool Animal Control Officers have to help them find the pet's owner.

Ensuring your pet's information is current can make all the difference if your pet is lost or stolen.

For more information, contact Animal Control Officer Jacob Young at 952-563-4942.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ANIMAL CONTROL.